



Gitchee Gumme Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation 2013

Turkey Hunting History

Thanks to a partnership between the Wisconsin DNR and the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wisconsinites started turkey hunting in southwestern Wisconsin in 1983. Turkey populations grew and spread throughout southern and central Wisconsin with the aid of the Wisconsin DNR trapping and translocating birds in strategic places of good habitat. As translocation efforts continued throughout the 1980's and early 90's, the birds continued to reproduce and spread northward. Translocation efforts were temporarily discontinued in the early 90's because the DNR felt that the birds were existing in what was considered the best habitat the state had. After additional studies were done, it was found that turkeys could exist much farther north than previously believed.

Turkeys spread into northern counties of Sawyer, Price, Washburn, Lincoln, Rusk, Forest, and Pierce. In 2003, the Wisconsin DNR approved the translocation of more than 85 birds for the Gitchee Gumme Chapter of the NWTF to be released in Douglas and western Bayfield Counties. The birds were released in early March of 2004, and have done very well. Wisconsin's turkey population is now estimated at over 500,000 birds. In 2006, the entire state was open to spring turkey hunting for the first time.

Learn to Hunt Turkeys

For the seventh year, the Gitchee Gumme Chapter will be sponsoring a Youth Learn to Hunt Turkeys in Douglas County. This year it will be held on Friday, March 28th and Saturday, March 29th, for area youths between 12 and 16 years of age. A drawing will be held for fifteen lucky youths to attend the hunt. Parents of youths that otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to turkey hunt are especially encouraged to apply. These youths would have first priority. **Youth hunters must have passed hunter education to participate in this hunt.**

All participants will be required to attend a free three-hour long DNR Turkey Hunter Education Clinic (THEC) offered at Superior Trap Club on March 16th, starting at 9 AM. Afterwards, youth hunters will be able to pattern their shotguns at the range with the assistance of National Wild Turkey Federation volunteers.

The two day event will be headquartered at Meteraud's Crystal Lake Resort and Wascott Four Seasons Recreation Club in Wascott. Participants will be required to attend a meeting starting at 5:00 PM, Thursday, March 28th, meet their mentors, go over logistics, and head into the field to scout and/or roost turkeys. This will take place at the Wascott Rec. Club Ball Field ¼ mile north of CTH T.

Participants will be encouraged to sleep over Thursday and Friday nights. All meals will be provided by the NWTF Chapter. Parents are encouraged, but not required to go along in the field as observers. Mentors will provide transportation for their youth hunters. The event will conclude at about Noon, on Saturday after photos and cleanup.

The event is free, but a \$25 deposit will be required for each youth hunter **(to be paid after notification of being successfully drawn to participate)** to be refunded upon completion of the hunt to ensure that the student hunter attends the event. The event is made possible only by the dedication of numerous individuals who understand the importance of getting our youth introduced to this growing sport. **By March 2nd, (drawing is on March 6th) interested parents must fill out the permission/liability waiver/agreement slip and entry form with the name of their child and send it to:**

**Douglas County Youth Hunt
Gitchee Gumme Chapter of the NWTF
P.O. Box 42
Superior, WI 54880**

Sincerely,

Kevin Feind
Youth Hunt Coordinator
(715) 378-2486